

Spartina pectinata - Carex spp. Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Prairie Cordgrass - Sedge species Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Prairie Cordgrass - Sedge Wet Meadow
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Temporarily flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.j)
ALLIANCE	<i>Spartina pectinata</i> Temporarily Flooded Herbaceous Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE

Globally

This association is found in Montana and western South Dakota.

Wind Cave National Park

The prairie cordgrass - sedge vegetation type is uncommon. Stands were found in drainage bottoms in the north central part of the Park (Sanctuary and Centennial Trail areas).

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

At Wind Cave NP in South Dakota, prairie cordgrass - sedge stands occur in drainage bottoms where the soil is wet for at least part of the growing season (H. Marriot personal communication 1999).

Wind Cave National Park

Prairie cordgrass - sedge stands occur in drainage bottoms where the soil is wet for at least part of the growing season.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> , <i>Carex nebrascensis</i> , <i>Spartina pectinata</i>

Wind Cave National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Eleocharis palustris</i> , <i>Carex nebrascensis</i> , <i>Spartina pectinata</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Eleocharis palustris, *Carex nebrascensis*, *Spartina pectinata*

Wind Cave National Park

Eleocharis palustris, *Carex nebrascensis*, *Spartina pectinata*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

At Wind Cave NP in South Dakota, this type has dense herbaceous cover, greater than 75%. Species dominance is patchy within stands, with various graminoids locally abundant, often to the exclusion of other species. In the single sampled stand, *Spartina pectinata*, *Carex nebrascensis*, and *Eleocharis palustris* were locally dominant. *Epilobium ciliatum* was common in shallow water (H. Marriott personal communication 1999).

Wind Cave National Park

Prairie cordgrass - sedge vegetation has dense herbaceous cover, greater than 75%. Species dominance is patchy within stands, with various graminoids locally abundant, often to the exclusion of other species. In the single stand sampled, cordgrass (*Spartina*

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Wind Cave National Park

pectinata), Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) and pale spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*) were locally dominant. Hairy willow-herb (*Epilobium ciliatum*) was common in shallow water.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G3?

DATABASE CODE CEGl001477

MAP UNITS

The prairie cordgrass - sedge community is one type included in map unit 14, emergent wetland herbaceous complex, on the Wind Cave vegetation map. It is not mapped separately.

COMMENTS

Wind Cave National Park

Stands of prairie cordgrass - sedge vegetation at Wind Cave NP are small. Only a few stands are sufficiently large to map and sample.

Cordgrass - sedge stands dry out later in the growing season during most years.

REFERENCES

Culwell, L.D. and K.L. Scow. 1982. Terrestrial vegetation inventory: Dominy Project Area, Custer County, Montana 1979-1980. Unpublished technical report for Western Energy Company by Westech, Helena, Montana.